

Please read my statement.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

The FCC has a responsibility to the public to enforce regulations. To turn a blind eye at the moment of violation by Sinclair Broadcasting is irresponsible and unpatriotic when any later (after the broadcast) legal intervention will be an act as culpable as that of Sinclair Broadcasting because the damage to our election process will be irretrievable.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.